

A.O.

Ht. 12, Frederick, Md. 21701
1/16/78

Mr. William R. Shea, Director
FBI/DOJ Appeals
Department of Justice
Washington, D.C. 20530

Dear Mr. Shea,

FOLIA request/appeal

Submitting my FOIA request to you is unusual but under the exceptional circumstances, including my request for expedited processing and immediate review of any withholdings on the merits, I do make the request of you so that if you agree you may route it and also monitor compliance, including the expedited processing.

Please excuse the haste and errors. We have but one mail a day and I want this to be able to go out in it. Also, I had to get a very early start to be able to complete reading what is essential in this letter and request.

I have a recent FOIA request addressed to the FBI only relating to the new book "Ingenue: the sexual world of Lee Harvey Oswald by Edward T. Epstein". When I made the request I had not read the book and I had no reason to believe other than the FBI would be involved with the book and the request, for all relating to it and to Epstein's access to information. (I also asked for the same information and a waiver of costs and fees.)

The form I used for the book was apparent it because that other Department components had to have varying kinds of involvement. And in this I include studies, reports or analyses of the book and attendant promotions.

Then, in the notes to one of the most incredible pieces of writing I have seen, a chapter titled "Mythique: Inside Out," I found cited as a source on the extraordinary three-year detention without due process of the Russian defector Yuri Gagarin there is Stashevsky et al. (P. 328.)

While I have earlier and long-pending FOIA requests relating to Rosemary (which the CIA also has ignored for us a long time, and believe that this request is included in them, I do desire expedited processing now because of the intense public interest and the considerable amount of harm this book and more, the attention to it, can cause to the essential functions of several agencies, not alone but including the FBI and CIA.

And in this regard I believe that I have unique knowledge and am in a unique position, my critical views of both agencies being anything but secret. With the records sought I can better serve a public function.

With regard to those records and to your other records that you may know my interest is especially from a writing interest, although at the time of the initial requests I had a particular book in mind. I am prepared to provide whatever proofs of these claims, which are part of the basis for expedited processing and waiver, you may require. One that should be obvious is that in asking for expedited processing I am as using an added burden, one not easy for me to assume now. Other is that I do not lack for reading material or other work to do.

I draw upon personal and professional experiences that are not common to tell you that I can see in this book a morale/sovereign of that was exceptionally hurtful to government and disastrous to the decision-making process prior to, during and following World War II. This may be easy to be discounted but I assure you it is not exaggerated. This has been one of my interests not for writing but to leave a record and to compile all records of this nature relating to me. Some that I have obtained (not from the Department) will be clear on this point to impartial scholars and are available in event their incomplete state to those of authentic scholarly interest. I would hope that there may be some in government who can conceive that there may be such forces now at work, especially with regard to

Current controversies over the FBI and CIA and other similar agencies.

While I do not regard it as knowledge that should figure in your considerations I have no reluctance in telling you that I regard this entire project, not just the book but the people and influences behind it, as grossly unfair to the FBI and of possible damage to any internal efforts it may exercise toward reform. It is grossly unfair to many people in the FBI, now and in the past. It is truly Orwellian in its paranoia and in its dishonesties that cannot be accidental, often but not exclusively aimed at the FBI and Director Hoover and his closest associates of that period.

An evidence of my good faith in this I am prepared to take time for those of proper interest to make such things available to them. I do not offer to take time for indulging idle curiosity but I am willing to tent time for serious purposes.

I realize that much of this may be incomprehensible to you because you are not a subject interest. Your personal historical interests may not be like this particular period of our history. So I'll try to provide you with a comprehensible illustration.

Kosygin defected in February 1964. In that month he was made available to three FBI agents. They filed several long and detailed reports which I have. After evaluating one of them the FBI, over the signature of Director Hoover, informed the Warren Commission that it had arranged for Kosygin to testify before the Commission if it so desired. One of the reasons (and one that has been a continuing interest of mine from the first week of the assassination investigation) is that Kosygin told the FBI that the KGB regarded Lee Harvey Oswald as "an American sleeper agent." (And in an entire book on Kosygin and Oswald I mention neither the notion of Oswald from that moment on the CIA devoted itself - successfully - to preventing the taking of Kosygin's testimony. (This is part of one of my FOIA suits, C.A. 75-1448, Appeals No. 77-1731.) Those who did that or those who today are rewriting history and those who are responsible for this unjustified assault on the FBI over Kosygin.

(For your information another of my FOIA suits is relevant - C.A. 2052-73. In it I obtained a formerly withheld Warren Commission executive session transcript in which Commissioner Wallace, former DCI, assured his fellow commissioners that perjury in the CIA dedication to true patriotism and that if Oswald had been working for an American agency overseas it would not have been the FBI but could have been the CIA. I have published this entire transcript and another on the same subject in facsimile to assure permanent and unrestricted access to both and the annotation I also provided.)

I do not mean to be creating a case or trying to influence your judgment. I am trying to inform you of some of what I believe to be truly exceptional circumstances in which I am able to and tend to be in a position to render unique and otherwise self-service public service. I believe the questions and issues involved are quite serious and of national importance.

Because of the nature and extent of the previously withheld information that I made available to you (exclusively (despite my earlier and ignored requests and the ignored requests of others) I believe your reviewer should have and read the book. If it is not read although the index is selective and useful it will be helpful. It is not a subject index except on the FBI, Kosygin and Oswald. As examples while there is no heading for information provided by Kosygin or anything like that there is "alleges to lying," which is separate from "bona fides" and "extractions and admissions." There is "indictment" at 270" when there was no indictment and there is no notation of any on that page. Let my reference to "Malley" (which is not in the index, I, of course, am available to answer questions about what is public domain and I can refer your staff to another who has already made a detailed study of the book and has an ignore full request to a degree duplicating my earlier ones.

as of yesterday's mail I have not received those letters you told me ~~knows~~
you had written me except for the one with the copy of your full testimony. I have been
able to respond to them because Jim "Bear" sent me copies of the carbons mailed to him.

This is unusual on my end. The mail service here is good, as are all the mail
personnel of whom I know.

Spies along with this are what I mention merely as a matter of records not connected
with you and not detailed in order not to compromise you. There have been certain untoward
and repeated acts I regard as entirely improper when I have cases before federal courts.
It is impossible to attribute them to any other than official interest. They also are not
unique within my personal experience and they do figure in the FBI records that remain
available from me by some other agency.

Sorry about errors and any confusion from the haste in which I do this.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg